

He says the biggest mistake they made in the 104th Congress was backing off of the Government shutdown.

"We should have stuck it out," he says, "our calls were 400 to 5 in favor of the shutdown. The worst moment was November 19. I was cooking steaks for five or six Members at my condo." That is right, he is having steaks. Federal contractors and employees and all are eating peanut butter, but he was having steaks. "The TV was on. All of a sudden there's NEWT and Dole and the President, and everybody is shaking hands and saying they've reached agreement to reopen the Government. I'll never forget it as long as I live."

Radical? Extreme? Yes, the shoe fits.

PAYBACK TIME?

(Ms. GREENE of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GREENE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, in February 1995, the Clinton administration settled a 212-page draft criminal complaint against the Laborers' International Union. The Justice Department listed some 80 criminal convictions of Laborers officials over a 20-year period. The convictions were for major felonies like racketeering, extortion, tax evasion, and attempted murder.

To reform the union, career prosecutors asked for appointment of an outside administrator. Instead, Clinton let Union President Arthur Coia off the hook, and told him to clean up the union in which he had—according to Justice—created a "climate of fear and intimidation."

Federal Election Commission records show that the Laborers gave the Democratic Party soft money contributions of \$460,000, for the 18-month period ending in June, more than any other union, and more than all but seven other donors.

Could the connection be more obvious?

SO MUCH FOR THE REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED 104TH CONGRESS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the Speakership of the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, like the 104th Congress and the Contract on America, are all beginning to unravel. The ethics probe has been dramatically expanded, and now the committee believes that the Speaker may have been lying to the outside counsel.

Even committee Republicans, who have seen all the evidence and who still refuse to release the report, supported the decision to expand the probe. Republicans obviously have decided to throw the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] overboard, as long as they can postpone the bad news until after

the election. Throw NEWT overboard, use their little gray buckets to bail themselves out with the American people.

The charges are very serious: Tax fraud, money laundering, corruption, and now, lying to the outside counsel. So much for personal responsibility, so much for a reform-minded Congress, and so much for the Republican-controlled 104th Congress.

PUERTO RICO AS THE 51ST STATE?

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, have Members thought about Puerto Rico as the 51st State? That is what we are going to be voting on today.

Now the proponents are going to say, this is not for statehood, this is solely a plebiscite. They have had three plebiscites in Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth has won every one. The rules are going to be structured so statehood finally has a chance to win. If I can set the rules, I can win any game.

This is a very serious issue. It is like the old Communist system, the Communists lost, lost, lost and when they finally won, no more elections, no more plebiscites. That is the way it is going to be here.

I hope the people take a look at this bill when it comes up today, and just not rush over into the sea like a bunch of lemmings. I have a question, too. How do the American people feel about this? When we add a State to the United States, I think that is a very serious question. I hope the people in this House today take a look at this bill and vote with their conscience.

THE SPEAKER'S ICE BUCKETS AND WATER BOYS ARE ON THE WAY OUT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, why is Speaker GINGRICH still smiling over his ice bucket? It is true, he has collected many an ice bucket, and even though he has had all that ice to try to put that ethics report in deep freeze, he has not been successful. It is sizzling through.

Like any time when the ice begins to melt, it turns into dirty slush. What we find in this Congress is one Member after another who is still carrying around the slush, or the water, the water boys for NEWT on one issue after another, as they have done through this entire Congress.

After all, it was NEWT's water boys who carried pails like those I see Members carrying around Congress today who carried the water to shut down the Government and cost the taxpayers \$1.5 billion. It was NEWT's water boys who wanted to cut student loans by

over \$20 billion. It was NEWT's water boys who turned over the writing of our water laws and our other environmental laws to the polluters, to sit right here in this Capitol and write those laws.

NEWT's water boys are still going, but not for much longer.

THE DEMOCRATS' CHANGE OF HEART ABOUT THE NEED FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, AND CELEBRATING THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as we draw this 104th Congress to a close, I think it is appropriate to remember where we were 2 years ago, before Republicans became a majority in this House. The Democrats were not talking about a balanced budget. In fact, the President's balanced budget at that time, 2 years ago, had a \$200 billion deficit every year into the foreseeable future.

In 1995, the new Republican majority came in and insisted that Government do what Americans have to do in their personal family budgets—that being—balance the Federal budget. The Democrats, the President, did their focus groups, they took the polls. They decided, Americans do want a balanced budget. They think it is reasonable. Two years ago, nobody on the liberal side of the aisle was talking about a balanced budget, and now everybody is talking about it. That is progress.

The liberals and big Government advocates try to belittle this Republican Congress, and criticize the Contract With America. We are going to celebrate our 2-year anniversary of the Contract With America today. Let us just remember that most of the brag items of accomplishments that President Clinton mentioned in his acceptance speech were passed by the Republican-controlled 104th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the Contract With America items signed into law in the last 2 years.

The material referred to is as follows:

The Contract With America has significantly contributed in making the 104th Republican-led Congress one of the most productive ever. Of 75 Contract legislative provisions considered in the House, 49 (65 percent) have been enacted by statute or rules change, 20 (27 percent) have been vetoed by President Clinton, and 6 (8 percent) await Senate action. The bottom line: two-thirds of the Contract is now law.

CONTRACT MEASURES SIGNED INTO LAW

Congressional Accountability Act—Applies civil rights and job protection laws to Congress. (H.R. 1)

Congressional Reforms—Host of "opening day" reforms approved as part of House rules, including a one-third cut in committee staff (saving \$45 million), term limits for the Speaker and committee chairmen, a ban on